

REMARKS**Status Of Claims**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 will be pending in this application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite recitations of original claim 3 containing allowable subject matter, as well as original claim 2. Therefore, kindly cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 4, previously depending from claim 3, is amended to depend from claim 1. No new subject matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's conclusion claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. In order to advance prosecution, Application has amended independent claim 1 to contain recitations of allowable claim 3.

Response To Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over US 6,528,796 to Kaifu et al (Kaifu '796). Additionally, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kaifu '796, further in view of US 5,804,832 to Crowell et al (Crowell '832).

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite recitations of claim 3 containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-7 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at this time. Claim 2 has been canceled rendering its rejection moot. The rejections of claims 1, 5-6 and 7 set forth above under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), are also moot. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of this application.

CONCLUSION

The claims are now believed to be in a form for allowance and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through an additional personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5347. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 2, 2006

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